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ming the torrent of war, in healing the distractions of Europe, and in restoring peace to an afflicted world.

Then, may we reasonably hope to extend the kingdom of our Saviour, and disseminate a knowledge of Christianity through the extended globe. Then may we expect the approach of that blissful happy time, anticipated by an inspired prophet, when "they shall turn their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; when the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and there shall be nothing to hurt or destroy in all the holy mountain of the Lord."

MARCELLUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE present times are particularly characterized by the attention which is paid to education, and the modes in which it is conducted. That errors may be mended, it is necessary they should be pointed out; but it is matter of great regret that amendment does not always follow exposure. The custom of holding long vacations has been often justly reprobated, but in consequence of the improper indulgence of parents and the laziness of teachers, long vacations are still pretty general.

There is another abuse closely connected with the above, which is equally deserving of censure; this is the mode of preparing (as it is called) children for their half yearly examination. It is well known that generally about a month previous to vacation a task is allotted to each scholar, in which it is necessary he should make himself perfect, in order that his acquirements may be shown off at an examination. The intention of the master is seconded by the emulation of the scholars,

and in this task they are brought as near perfection as possible, during which time every thing else is neglected.

When the great day of examination arrives, a class is brought up who spell their stated number of columns correctly, but the turning of one leaf more, turns all their abilities into smoke. They can spell this but nothing else. If you ask a boy to work a question in arithmetic, in any other rule than that in which he has been prepared, the poor child can only stare at you, or hang his head in confusion. The classes in other departments are in a similar situation. Several weeks have been spent in learning one task, during which time, and the succeeding vacation the scholars are afforded a fine opportunity of forgetting every thing else they have ever learned. A more effectual method of retarding the scholars' progress can hardly be conceived, and were the power of established custom left out of the account, it might be supposed that the absurdity of the practice would cause its immediate abandonment.

There does not appear any thing more useful, or more conducive to the improvement of scholars than frequent examinations and the conferring of rewards on the most deserving, but these examinations should extend to the general acquirements of scholars, and not merely to a particular lesson dressed up for the occasion.

While the foregoing ridiculous system is almost generally followed, it is gratifying to observe that some teachers have shook off the trammels of custom, and sacrificed an additional portion of their time for the benefit of the children committed to their care. One instance may be given as an example for imitation.

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In the school alluded to there is no particular time set apart for vacations. Every scholar is provided with a card ruled on purpose for one week, in which their conduct and progress in their respective classes are daily marked by the teacher, and at the end of the week the items are summed up and copied into a book which is kept for the purpose. At stated times these general accounts are compared, and those

whose conduct has been most exemplary and who have been most frequently first in their respective classes, are rewarded with proportionate premiums. Thus a particular examination is continually going on, and a perpetual inducement and stimulus to exertion is held out in the honour conferred and the premium awarded.

L.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THOMAS
BEDDOES, M.D.

IT has long been the fashion to remark, that the lives of literary men are best made known by means of their works, and that they afford little or no portion of that amusement which is to be found in the memoirs of those who have taken a more active part in the busy scenes of actual life. We agree indeed with Cicero, that nothing is better calculated for entertainment than "variety" and "vicissitude;" but even these are to be met with in the "many-coloured lives" of a studious career; and if to these were added, a description of his pursuits, his avocations, and above all, an account of the progress of his intellectual researches and attainments, we fear not to assert, that the memoirs of such a man might be rendered to the full as entertaining, and infinitely more instructive, than the flippant pages of a modern novel. In fine, to apply this train of reasoning to the subject of the present article, if Dr. Beddoes, like the late Bubb Doddington (Lord Melcombe) had kept a "diary" similar to what we have now hinted at, there is little doubt but that it would have a-

bounded with curious anecdotes, valuable speculations, the details of an extensive course of medical study, and many admirable hints towards the perfection of the healing art, and the consequent alleviation of the multitude of calamities which "flesh is heir to."

To objects of this honourable description, the distinguished abilities and splendid acquisitions of Dr. Beddoes have been uniformly and intensely devoted, and in tracing the mental progress of such a character, it is not necessary, however scanty the incidents of his life may be found, to offer an apology.

Thomas Beddoes was born at Shifnal, in Shropshire, about the year 1754 or 1755. His relations were respectable and opulent people, nearly all of whom were engaged in trade. His father was a tanner; but he seems to have been determined in early life that his son should receive an excellent education, so as to be fitted for a higher sphere in society.

He received the first rudiments of his education at a school in his native town, and thence was removed to a seminary at Brod, in Staffordshire. He is remembered